

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A remote server management controller, comprising:  
an IOP that is adapted to communicate with a managed server via a communication  
5 interface;  
a failsafe register that is adapted to receive an IOP reset request via the communication  
interface;  
a failsafe boot timer adapted to initiate a countdown when the failsafe register receives an  
IOP reset request; and  
10 wherein the IOP is adapted to be placed in a reset condition if the IOP does not clear the  
IOP reset request from the failsafe register and disable the failsafe boot timer before the  
countdown expires.
2. The remote server management controller of claim 1, further comprising:  
15 a plurality of registers associated with the IOP, the plurality of registers being adapted to be  
accessed by the IOP and to be accessed via the communication interface, the plurality of  
registers being adapted to be placed in a locked condition in which access to the plurality of  
registers via the communication interface is prevented, the plurality of registers being  
adapted to be placed in an unlocked condition in which access to the plurality of registers  
20 via the communication interface is permitted; and  
wherein the plurality of registers is placed in an unlocked condition if the IOP is placed in  
the reset condition.

3. The remote server management controller of claim 1 wherein the IOP is adapted to execute an initialization sequence and to place the plurality of registers in the locked condition as part of the initialization sequence.

5 4. The remote server management controller of claim 2 wherein at least one of the plurality of registers is placed in the locked condition unless the managed server is operating in a system management mode.

10 5. The remote server management controller of claim 2 wherein the IOP is adapted to grant permission to access at least one of the plurality of registers.

6. The remote server management controller of claim 1 wherein the IOP is adapted to decline the IOP reset request.

15 7. The remote server management controller of claim 1 wherein the communication interface is a PCI bus.

8. The remote server management controller of claim 1 wherein cycles received via the communication interface are retried until the IOP completes an initialization sequence.

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9. The remote server management controller of claim 1 wherein cycles received via the communication interface are retried until the IOP is placed in a reset state upon expiration of the failsafe boot timer.

5 10. A managed server, comprising:

a communication interface;

a device adapted to communicate via the communication interface;

a remote server management controller, comprising:

an IOP that is adapted to communicate via the communication interface;

10 a failsafe register that is adapted to receive an IOP reset request via the communication interface;

a failsafe boot timer adapted to initiate a countdown when the failsafe register receives an IOP reset request; and

15 wherein the IOP is adapted to be placed in a reset condition if the IOP does not clear the IOP reset request from the failsafe register and disable the failsafe boot timer before the countdown expires.

11. The managed server of claim 10 wherein the remote server management controller further comprises:

20 a plurality of registers associated with the IOP, the plurality of registers being adapted to be accessed by the IOP and to be accessed via the communication interface, the plurality of registers being adapted to be placed in a locked condition in which access to the plurality of

registers via the communication interface is prevented, the plurality of registers being adapted to be placed in an unlocked condition in which access to the plurality of registers via the communication interface is permitted; and wherein the plurality of registers is placed in an unlocked condition if the IOP is placed in the reset condition.

12. The managed server of claim 10 wherein the IOP is adapted to execute an initialization sequence and to place the plurality of registers in the locked condition as part of the initialization sequence.

13. The managed server of claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of registers is placed in the locked condition unless the managed server is operating in a system management mode.

14. The managed server of claim 10 wherein the IOP is adapted to grant permission to access at least one of the plurality of registers.

15. The managed server of claim 10 wherein the IOP is adapted to decline the IOP reset request.

16. The managed server of claim 10 wherein the communication interface is a PCI bus.

17. The managed server of claim 10 wherein cycles received via the communication interface are retried until the IOP completes an initialization sequence.

18. A method of authorizing access to a register, comprising the acts of:

receiving a reset request via a failsafe register;

initiating a countdown of predetermined duration in response to the reset request;

permitting access to the register if the reset request is not cleared and the countdown is not halted before expiration of the predetermined duration.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising the act of denying access to the register.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the act of denying access to the register is performed as part of an initialization process.